



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
JANUARY 2019



Friends in Christ—

Each new year comes with its own new challenges and new opportunities. Somehow the change of the calendar can generate new resolve and new energy to tackle long-standing problems.

We come into 2019 perhaps more aware than ever of both the threat and the current reality of climate change. The wildfires in California, the melting glaciers, the powerful storms are all predicted outcomes of an increasingly warming planet.

Last October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that the world has a little over a decade to bring down greenhouse gas emissions before dangerous levels of warming become inevitable.

In November a United Nations report found that the nations of the world are failing to take the action needed to stave off the worst effects of climate change and called on governments to introduce additional measures as a matter of urgency.

On the day after Thanksgiving, the Trump administration released a major climate assessment. It was the culmination of years of research by our nation's leading climate scientists. The report is required by Congress every four years and is issued by 13 federal agencies and the U.S. Global Change Research Program. This new report is the most detailed and blunt assessment yet of the dangers of unchecked global warming.

"Climate change is happening here and now," co-author Katherine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University said. "It is affecting all of us no matter where we live. And the more climate changes, the more serious and even more dangerous the impacts will become."

Joyce Msuya, deputy executive director of UN Environment, said: "We're feeding this fire, while the means to extinguish it are within reach."

The message of Christmas is that God loves human and earthly things. God has come to us in human flesh that we might love our time, our world all the more. And in loving this world we might glimpse the eternity that carries us all.

The proclamation of Epiphany is that the good news of God in Christ is made known to all the earth. This year in the weeks after Epiphany our congregation will explore how we might extinguish the fire of climate change that we have started and continue to feed. This exploration will be anchored by a Sunday morning adult education series. And other events and opportunities are being planned.

Be a part of this. Let's enter this New Year together with new resolve and new energy as we face the great challenge before us.

Peace,

Bill



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



EPIPHANY CELEBRATIONS ON JANUARY 6

Epiphany (the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the coming of the Magi) falls twelve days after Christmas, on January 6 each year. This year we'll celebrate Epiphany on that day—Sunday, January 6. In our 10:15 worship service we will bring our observance of Christmas to a conclusion, hearing the story of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew and sharing in the sacrament of communion. After worship, our festivities continue in Rockwood Hall where we will enjoy Epiphany Cake.

MISSION BOARD SPONSORS ADULT EDUCATION SERIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE BEGINING JANUARY 13

Climate change is with us now. It is affecting us in numerous ways. By faith, we affirm that we are stewards of the earth, responsible for its well-being. During January and February, the Mission Board is sponsoring a series of Adult Education sessions at 9:15 on Sunday mornings to explore ways in which climate change calls us to respond as people of faith.

Please join us in Rockwood Hall starting on Sunday, January 13 for this important series. Many of the presenters are members or relatives of members of Congregational UCC.

January 13	Iowa's Water and Climate Change	Mary Beth Stevenson, Iowa—Cedar River Basin Coordinator, Iowa Geological & Water Survey
January 20	Farming and Agriculture	Kate Edwards—Organic Farmer
January 27	Climate Grief	Terri Macey—Psychologist and Member of <i>Iowa City Climate Advocates</i>
February 3	Sustainable Building	Dwight Schumm—LEED Accredited Professional Engineer
February 10	Sustainable Living	Dwight and Connie Schumm
February 17	Sustainable Communities	Chuck Connerly, Director, UI School of Urban and Regional Planning
February 24	Green New Deal	TBA
March 3	Talking with Children about Climate Change	Terri Macey and Bill Lovin

2018 IOWA RELIGIOUS LEADERS STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE We Can No Longer Wait

Global climate change is one of the most pressing moral challenges facing our world. In late November, religious leaders in our state called on Iowans to find and implement solutions to climate change.

This statement was signed by our minister, Bill Lovin and Brigit Stevens, the Conference Minister of the Iowa Conference of the UCC, along with many others. You can read the entire statement at: https://3269wy41t7y24chpte41marm-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/446/2018/11/Final-2018-Iowa-Religious-Leaders-Statement-on-Climate-Change.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0k-xYCtRzKUd33UgYTU7ReZP9VRebVQh2nmpMgwRZPl_hiX5SRTQLXd_s

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Membership Committee **will not** meet in January. Their “kick off” meeting will be on February 21st at 5:30 pm. The Christian Education Committee and Mission Board will meet on January 8 at 6:30 and 7:00 pm respectively. The Trustees and Church Council will meet on January 15 at 7:00 pm.

ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 27

The Annual Meeting of the Congregational United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, January 27, in the sanctuary, following our 10:15 worship service. We will receive reports of Boards and Committees, vote on the budget for 2019, and transact any other business that is fitting and necessary. Copies of the annual report will be available by Sunday, January 20. **IF YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A REPORT FOR THE PUBLICATION, PLEASE GET IT TO NAN BY JANUARY 14.**

MISSION BOARD ALTERNATIVE GIVING—AN UPDATE

Our Mission Board continued our tradition of offering the opportunity to shop for alternative gifts after worship in November and December—and the congregation responded joyfully and generously! Thanks to everyone who’s work made this possible. Thanks, too, for your support and giving. Nearly \$3,200 was raised to support Church World Service, Heifer International, and the new Iowa City Interfaith Habitat for Humanity Build.

In December, United Church News published an article about alternative giving that featured our congregation. You can read the article at http://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_churches_alternative_christmas_giving_markets_bring_hope_to_neighbors_far_and_near.

LUNCH AND BREAKFAST TOGETHER

The Women’s Lunch will be held on **January 17 at Monica’s in Coralville beginning at 11:45 am**. The Men’s Breakfast will be on **January 19 and will meet at the Waterfront HyVee in Iowa City**.

MEDITATION/PRAYER GATHERING

You are invited to join others for a time of silent prayer and meditation each Wednesday at noon in the Sanctuary. After a brief reading, participants sit silently for about 20 minutes. We conclude our time together with a brief period of conversation. This group is open to everyone. You do not need to attend every week in order to participate. We are all just beginning to pray, so feel free to join us when you are able.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE FRIDAY EMAIL?

Each week we send out a reminder to all members about upcoming events. If you are not getting the email and would like to receive it, please contact the church office.

THINK AHEAD FOR ANNUAL OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION

Each year in the fall, Congregational UCC joins with other congregations in providing winter coats for people of all ages, especially children. As winter items start to go on sale in the stores, now is a great time to let your dollar go further and purchase coats. Please store them at your home until the fall when they can be brought to the church and then taken to the distribution site.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM NEWS

Our church served 132 lunches at the Free Lunch Program on December 31, 2018. So many thoughtful members of our church volunteered their time by donating and preparing food, serving and/or cleaning up on this day: Sheryl Amos, Ann Aschoff, Claire Ashman, Dianne Atkins, Bryan Clemons, John & Randee Fieselmann, John Fuller, Betsy Henson, Donna Hirst, Ben & Katie Hoefer, Marge Hoppin, Kathi Koegle, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Ruth Kuntz, Margaret MacInnis & Lila, Nan Martin, Ed Murph, Edie Roberts, Patty Roberts, Rick Ruppert, Betty Stein, Kathy Thede-Reynolds and Lee Wood.

Thank you all so much for making this day so successful and, especially, Rick Ruppert, who even volunteered precious time on his birthday! **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO RICK!**

Our next serving date is Monday, April 29, 2019. A signup sheet will be posted in Rockwood Hall by the first of April. As always, this wouldn't be possible without you! *Vicki Thomae*

CHRISTMAS FUND UPDATE

We have gathered \$1745 in named donations and \$500.67 in loose plate donations to the Christmas Fund, for a total of \$2245.67. This exceeds our \$1581 of last year. We will update the total if more are received in the next couple of weeks.



MILESTONE

Wedding: Megan Henson, daughter of Betsy and John Henson, and Mat Wymore on December 22.

REFLECTIONS FROM A PASTORAL COUNSELOR.....



For many mental health therapists, January brings about an increase in their caseload. It may be due to people putting therapy off until after the first of the year because the holidays are so preoccupying. Or perhaps it's due to issues arising during various holiday gatherings that now need processing.

A new calendar year also represents a fresh start or a second chance. Besides the frequent and obvious resolutions regarding exercise and weight loss, there may be a resolution concerning emotional, mental, and/or spiritual health--realizing one doesn't have to be sick to get better. Fresh starts and second chances may involve forgiveness and/or (re)new(ed) commitment. Such may include trying harder--though trying differently may generate more profound results.

A couple of biblical stories illustrate the power of fresh starts and second chances, including Naomi and Ruth in the Older Testament and the Parable of the Lost Son(s) in the Newer Testament. For several of the characters, they discovered hope at a much deeper level (the jury is still out regarding the Prodigal Son's older brother), which greatly enhances their lives.

May 2019 be kind to us . . . and we to it.

Bruce

(The Rev. Bruce D. Williams is a pastoral counselor at the Community Pastoral Counseling Service (CPCS), which is comprised of six churches in the Iowa City area including this one. CPCS is at 30 N. Clinton St., Iowa City, IA, 52245, 319-337-2519.)



LOOK AHEAD: *HOT TAMALES LOUIE* COMES TO CONGREGATIONAL UCC ON SUNDAY, MARCH 24

At its meeting in November, our Church Council approved the request from the Mission Board to use \$4000 from our “Engagement Fund” to support four performances of *Hot Tamale Louie* in eastern Iowa, beginning with a concert here on March 24. The Engagement Fund established by an anonymous donor in October, 2013. The donor requested \$12,000 each to fund the Crisis Center, the Common Fund, and the Eastern Iowa Center for Workers' Justice. These grants were completed in 2017. The remaining amount is to be used to fund initiatives that will enhance the church presence in and service to the community.

Hot Tamale Louie – The Story of Zarif Khan is a composition by University of Iowa professor of music John Rapson.” This production was based on the June 13, 2016, article in the *The New Yorker*, “American Chronicles: Citizen Khan,” by Kathryn Schultz. (The full article can be read [here](#).) Here’s a brief synopsis of this complicated and complex story:

An Afghani child of 12 leaves his home near the Khyber Pass, wandering India for years before boarding a boat in Bombay and landing in Seattle. After exploring the American West, he settles in Sheridan, Wyoming, and takes over a business selling tamales. He works 80 hours a week, becomes famous for his food, and eventually learns how to invest in the U.S. stock market. As he gains and loses fortunes, he nonetheless lives frugally, choosing to spend his money in acts of kindness and generosity. He gains citizenship in 1925, has it revoked by U.S. xenophobic laws, and regains it again 30 years later. He becomes a legend, both back home in the borderland between Afghanistan and Pakistan and in Wyoming. He has an arranged marriage late in life and sires six children before abruptly and tragically being murdered in his 80s. His children and their offspring have recently founded a mosque in Gillette, Wyoming, that has drawn the ire of some eastern Wyoming residents and received national media attention.

In seeking funds to be a part of this project, our Mission Board noted that our congregation has provided significant support to immigrants and refugees in Iowa. We are also involved in interfaith work through the Consultation of Religious Congregations and the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition. This would provide a new venue for expressing our support of these efforts. This will enhance the church presence in and service to the community—a central goal of the Engagement Fund. Because we will be listed as a major sponsor of this project, it will increase our visibility in the community, therefore making it an appropriate recipient of money from the Engagement Fund. Our congregation is committed to interfaith cooperation and the support of immigrants and refugees. Music and free concerts for the public are also an important part of our common life. This project brings these interests and commitments together in a unique way that will increase our public visibility.

The concert, which features live music, slides, and narration, will be performed in our sanctuary on Sunday, March 24, at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be both required and free. More information on tickets will be announced in the coming weeks. If you are interested in the CD/DVD of an earlier performance of *Hot Tamale Louis* at the Englert Theater, it is available for purchase (\$25) through HTLIC Media, Inc (a 501c3 nonprofit), 504 E. Bloomington Street, Iowa City, IA 52245. Attention, John Rapson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE—MARCH

The annual Shelter House book sale will be March 30, 10:30 am-4 pm and March 31, 12pm—4pm. The sale will be at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, Building C, and virtually all of the preparation for the sale will be in March. Set up will be March 18-23, all hands on deck every day. Donations can also be brought to the church the latter part of February and John Fieselmann or Donna Hirst can transport them to the sale site.

What you can do before March:

- 1) Identify books to donate, store them in your home and be prepared to move them to the sale site late February. Books can get dropped off at the Fairgrounds beginning February 24 from 1-3 pm. Drop offs will continue every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm and Sundays from 1-3 pm through the week of the sale. Volunteers will be needed to sort or move boxes February 24-March 29.
- 2) Plan to donate time in March. We will need people to move boxes, sort books into subject categories, box books, etc. A sign-up sheet will be in Rockwood Hall and you can begin to consider how you might assist.
- 3) We will need lots of dollies to transport book boxes. If you have a dolly that you would be able to loan this enterprise for the month of March, please let the church office know.

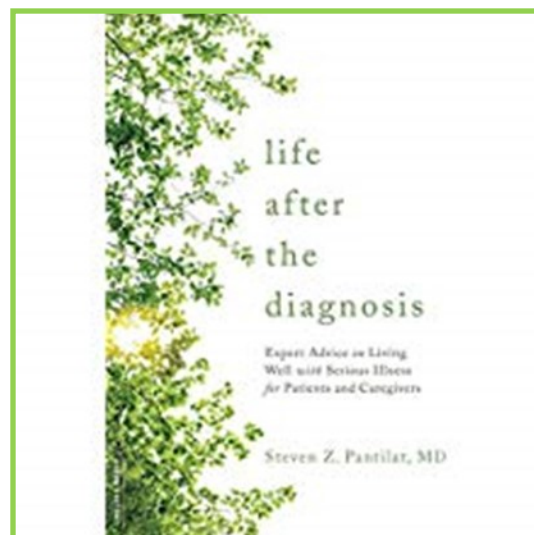
The sale is a full community effort, with very strong support from the area churches. Last year our church was exceptional in its generosity of volunteer hours and book donations. Let's beat our 2018 record.



ATTEND A FREE SCREENING OF “END GAME”

Members are invited to attend a free screening of the documentary “End Game” featuring nationally recognized palliative care physician Dr. Steven Pantilat, who will be a guest at the screening and will be signing copies of his book, “Life After the Diagnosis. Expert Advice on Living Well with Serious Illness for Patients and Caregivers”. The screening will take place at the **University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, MERF - 375 Newton Road, Prem Sahai Auditorium. 5 pm. January 8.** Questions? Contact Jennifer Hrabe @jhrabe@hotmail.com

A renowned expert in palliative care, who is featured in the Netflix documentary, *End Game*, Dr. Pantilat delivers a compassionate and sensitive guide to living well with serious illness.



Our Adult Library

"My Life, My Love, My Legacy"

By Coretta Scott King
As Told to the Reverend Barbara Reynolds

Published in 2017

Quoted from cover of the book:

"Born in 1927 to daringly enterprising parents in the Deep South, Coretta Scott had always felt called to a special purpose.

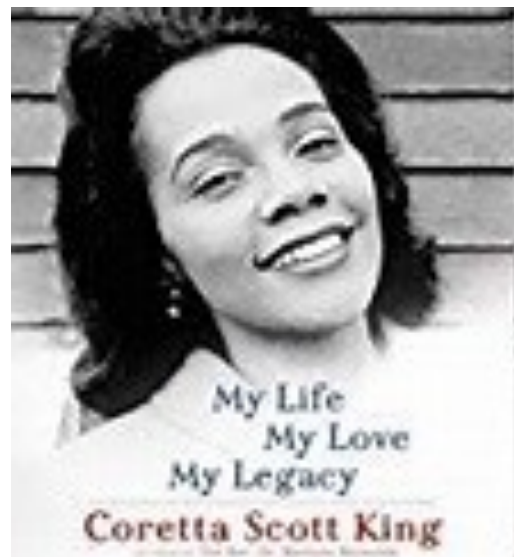
While enrolled as one of the first black scholarship students recruited to Antioch College she became politically and socially active and committed to the peace movement. And while a graduate student at the New England Conservatory of Music, determined to pursue her own career as a concert singer, she met Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist minister insistent that his wife stay home with the children.

In love and devoted to shared Christian beliefs as well as shared racial and economic justice goals, she married Dr. King, and events promptly thrust her into a maelstrom of history throughout which she was a strategic partner, a standard bearer, and so much more."

"As a widow and single mother of four, she worked tirelessly to found and develop the King Center as a citadel for world peace, lobbied for fifteen years for the US national holiday in honor of her husband, championed women's, workers', and gay rights, and was a powerful international voice for nonviolence, freedom, and human dignity."

"Coretta's is a love story, a family saga, and the memoir of an extraordinary black woman in twentieth century America, a brave leader who in the face of terrorism and violent hatred stood committed, proud, forgiving, nonviolent, and hopeful every day of her life."

Judy Doorenbos, Library Committee



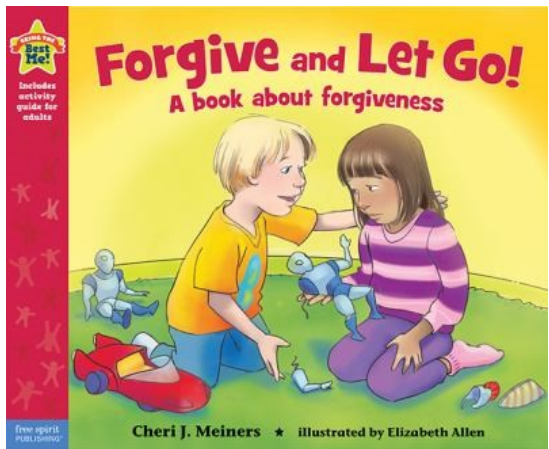
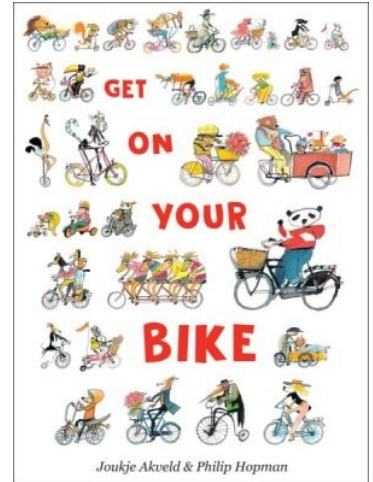
Our Children's Library

New Books on Forgiveness

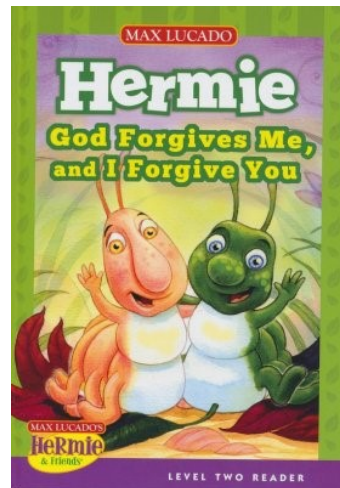
The following books were bought recently to supplement the church school curriculum in January. They will be used in the classrooms, so may not appear on the book cart until February.

Get on Your Bike by Joukje Akveld (2018)

– Ages 4-8, Grades PreK to 2. A sensitive, realistic portrait of an argument between two friends.



Forgive and Let Go by Cheri Meiners (2015) – Ages 4-8, Grades PreK to 3. Advice on helping children develop their forgiveness skills: how to accept an apology and move on without holding grudges, letting go of disappointment and accepting when things don't go the way they hope.

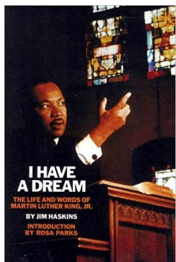


God Forgives Me, and I Forgive You

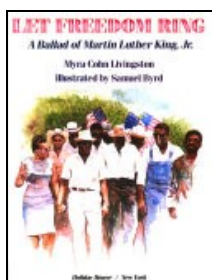
by Max Lucado (2012)
– Ages 4-7, Grades 1-2. The bugs in the garden are preparing for a harvest festival. Hermie has promised to help Wormie, but then forgets. Will Wormie forgive Hermie, and what happens when Hermie is the one who is disappointed?

Martin Luther King Jr.

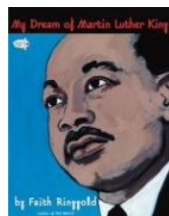
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is January 21. Three books from our library collection are presently on the book cart:



I Have a Dream: the Life and Works of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Jim Haskins (1992).



Let Freedom Ring: A Ballad of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Myra Colin Livingston (1992).



My Dream of Martin Luther King by Faith Ringgold (1995).



1/4 Bryon Day

**1/7 Kai Bouma
Olivia Groff**

**1/8 Bryan Clemons
Eve Leighton-Dick**

1/11 Diane Olson

1/18 John Fieselmann

1/19 Connie Parsons

**1/20 Ken Kuntz
Donna Janes**

1/21 Barbara McFarland

1/24 Issac Chen

1/25 Bea Hicks

1/28 Tyler Seidl

1/29 Jim Smith

1/30 Derek Lehman

1/31 Bill Williams

JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	OFFICE CLOSED	1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 - Weekly Meditation Noon	3	4	5
6 - Epiphany Worship Service @ 10:15 - Communion - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 am - Ephipany Celebra- tion After Worship in Rockwood Hall	7	8 - CE Board 6:30 pm - Mission Board 7:00 pm	9 - Weekly Medita- tion Noon - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	10	11	12
13 1st Sunday After Epiphany Worship @ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rock- wood Hall After Worship	14 - Knitting Group 2 pm	15 - Trustees 7:00 pm - Church Coun- cil 7:00 pm	16 - Weekly Medita- tion Noon - FRC Luncheon Noon - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	17 - Women's Lunch @ Monica's. 11:45 am	18	19 - Men's Breakfast @ Waterfront HyVee 8 am
20 2nd Sunday After Epiphany Worship @ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rock- wood Hall After Worship - Wemme Recitals 3:00 pm	21	22 - Council Meeting 7:00 pm	23 - Weekly Medita- tion Noon - FRC Luncheon Noon - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	24	25	26 - Wemme Recit- als 5:00 pm
27 3rd Sunday After Epiphany Worship @ 10:15 - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 am - Annual Meeting After Worship - Fellowship in Rock- wood Hall - Wemme Recitals 5:00 pm	28 - Knitting Group 2 pm	29	30 - Weekly Medita- tion Noon - FRC Luncheon Noon - Bible Study Group 7:30 pm	31		

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 North Clinton Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52245-1700**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER



PARKING INFORMATION

Parking is available evenings and all day Sunday at the IMU or North Hall Parking Ramps.

Ask your usher for a voucher (or get one from the church office).

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:15 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Fellowship

Church Office is open Monday - Friday 9-3pm

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	The Rev. William Lovin
Music Director:	Kristin Ramseyer
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Director of Church School:	The Rev. Patte Henderson
Office Manager:	Nan Martin
Financial Secretary:	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz
Communication Assistant:	Christina Patramanis
Custodians:	Douglas Herrera Claudia Landaverde

HOW TO CONTACT US

Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm
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Dir of Church Schooluccicce@uccic.org
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